

Rothesay Living Museum



Online Edition

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A Community Partnership between the
Town of Rothesay
&
Rothesay High School



Introducing
the most recent addition to the
Rothesay Living Museum Archives:

Sailing on the Kennebecasis:
A Pictorial History of the
Rothesay Yacht Club
The Tennant Collection

PART OF THE ROTHESAY LIVING MUSEUM
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM
September, 2001

COLWELL'S STORE HERITAGE PHOTOGRAPHS



Carman and Nita Colwell, with grandparents,
in front of Colwell's Store, circa 1936.



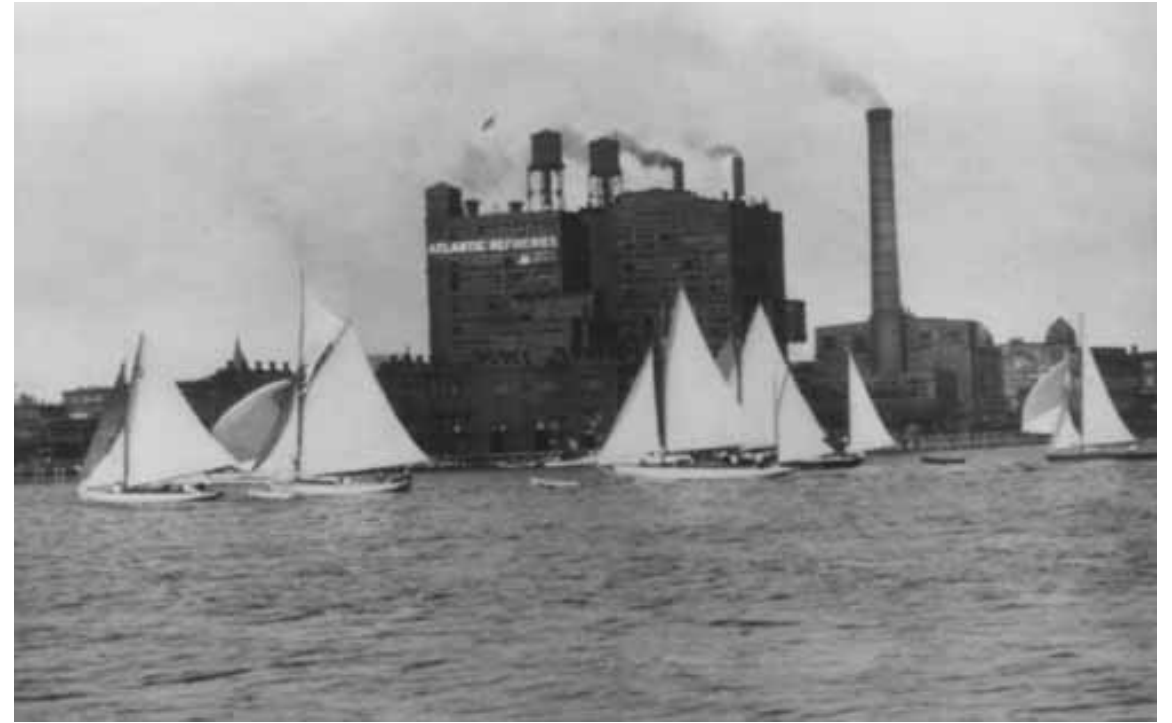
The Rothesay Yacht Club was formed in the early 1900s by a group of residents who saw their hobby as an opportunity to create a base upon which the community could grow. The community certainly grew but so did the interest in sailing.

The Club is currently located on the shore of the Kennebecasis at the end of the (insert name here) road but originally it was closer to the water. In the late 1930s or early 1940s the clubhouse was moved back on the hill where it rests now.

The Yacht Club was very active when it was formed in the first decade of the 20th century. The group, that consisted of families such as the Turnbulls, McKays, and the Brocks, sold shares to its members to build the Club House.



The Louvinnia enjoying a day out on the Kennebecasis in 1912 with Louise-Victoria-Mary and Howie Holder.



This photograph captures a harbour race in mid swing. Before the Second World War broke out racing and sailing in general in Saint John had reached a high point. The boats in this photograph are, from left to right, the Merry Mayor, Falcon, Osprey, Zetes, and Junco. Junco came out on top that day in 1934.

Indian Town was a busy place this day in 1934. You can be certain that not all of these boats were from Indian town. Sailors from all over Southern New Brunswick would come to regattas.



The sailboats in this photograph are racing boats but the

Rothesay Yacht Club had some larger boats as well. One member has traveled to the Bahamas in his 40' sailboat and lived there for one year and then sailed back. Another sailed to Florida in his 20' sailboat.



Although sailing is sometimes thought of as peaceful and relaxing Mr. Brock and his son prove otherwise. During an endurance race in 1934 their rudder broke but didn't give up. Instead they decided to use an oar in its place and finish the race.



Prepared for a day of sailing Mayo Inches, Diane Reid, and K. Inches stand on the wharf. The photograph was donated by the Inches family.



At the time when this photograph was taken, in 1967, racing was a common activity at the Club. There would be races held as much as twice a week during the summer months. This is a race between the Lucy&Jean, Crocus and Shark 308 in the Wayfairer and Star class.



I'm sure this looks strange to anyone who is unfamiliar to the art of schooner racing. But there is no need to worry, J. McLese and Jack Massey had the "Hornet" under control on this day in 1972.

Seen here cleaning off a boat, presumably in the boathouse, is "Den Mother" Sue Leese in 1971. After having closed the Boat Club for a year in 1964 following the tragic death of Doug Parker, a well known and liked member, a group of residents and members decided to open it again and start a junior sailing program. This program is still in action today.



Jim McAvity and Don Turnbull, in the photograph on the right, are seen sitting in one of the boat club's sailboats in 1925. The Turnbull family was one of the firsts who founded the Rothesay Yacht Club in 1905.



From looking at the photograph below you can understand why the boat club was moved up onto the hill in later years. Every year during the spring freshet the boathouse would be surrounded by water. If you look closely you can see Geoff Sayre and F. Brock floating on an ice cake in 1932.



Kathleen Blanchet looks out over the Kennebecasis from the veranda of the Rothesay Yacht Club in 1905. This is the first photograph, in the RLM digital collection, of the clubhouse.

Rothesay Living Museum: The Big Picture

The Rothesay Living Museum is a community based partnership between the Town of Rothesay and Rothesay High School, founded on the concept that heritage and history are important aspects of identity that have to be nurtured and honoured. In order to remember who we are, our stories and images have to be preserved, told and shown to the younger members of our community. Their stories, in turn, are also added to our collective tapestry, creating a Living Museum.

The history, images, and artefacts of the five former communities that now constitute the new Rothesay are to be collected from individual citizens and community groups or organizations and made available to everyone in a number of interesting and dynamic ways. This includes:

1. Designated areas within Rothesay High School devoted to the history of a single community such as the current Renforth Room.
2. Community outreach projects such as the Colwell's Store display.
3. Archival housing of image files. Area photographs of historic value that will be rephotographed and digitized and/or returned to donors when required. This will provide the basis for future displays in designated areas.
4. A cyberspace archive linked to the world wide web.

The Rothesay Living Museum is administered by members of the Rothesay Living Museum Committee, an adhoc committee of the Town of Rothesay Public Works Committee. The committee has representatives from the administration of the Town of Rothesay and Rothesay High School. The former Clerks/ Administrators from all the previous communities and representatives from concerned community groups are members of the committee and are kept aware of the evolution of this project.

Rothesay High School is the physical site of the Museum and houses the archives, processing facilities and exhibitions of permanent and temporary displays.